

4 APR 1960

Mr. Forrest A. Trumbore

Dear Sir:

The Director has asked me to acknowledge your recent letter.

I am enclosing some unclassified material on Soviet Civil Defense for your information. I hope this will fill your requirements for this type of information.

Sincerely,

Otto E. Guthe  
Assistant Director

Enclosure:  
Soviet Civil Defense

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OCh/E/ (1 April 1960)

### Soviet Civil Defense

The leaders in the Kremlin have also been giving increasing attention since 1954 to civil defense measures that would provide protection of the urban population against nuclear attack.

Soviet civil defense officials have a voice in approving building plans and in city planning. Some of the broad streets and the wide spaces between buildings, which are characteristic of new Soviet city plans, are in part due to civil defense considerations relating to the control of fire.

The large part of the new State housing construction in urban areas of the USSR consists of masonry apartment dwellings, whose basements may be adaptable for use as shelters. As designed, the Soviet basement shelters in masonry buildings could be equipped with filter ventilating systems for defense against radioactive dust.

The rapid construction of apartment buildings in the Soviet Union over the past several years, and the plans to increase the pace of such building through 1965, means that the opportunity exists for an increasing percentage of the urban population to be provided with some form of shelter. However, for the most part, this would be of the light type, likely to be effective against fallout but not able to withstand much blast.

Schematics of heavier air raid shelters, such as bunkers and tunnels, began to appear in Soviet literature in 1956. The use of subways as shelter is prescribed. The Moscow subway, which is still being expanded, sheltered as many as 750,000 people during the last war and was equipped then with steel doors and air filters.

Those who do not have formal shelter available are instructed in how to build field-type, wood-lined trenches covered with about two feet of earth. These are to be constructed in parks and open areas or in rural regions upon government notification that a "threatening situation" exists.

Until 1958, Soviet civil defense instructions advised everyone to use nearby shelter for air defense. Subsequent planning includes partial evacuation of cities.

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